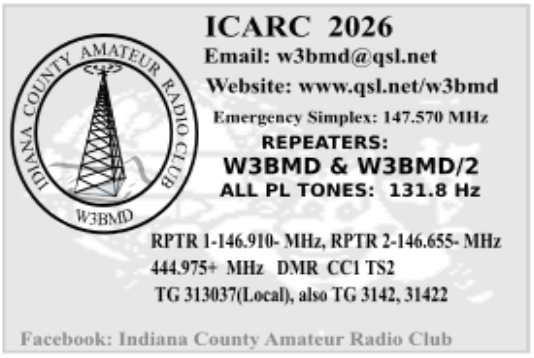

IARC NEWSLETTER

June 30, 2026

Much thanks to the ARRL Foundation for its support provided to the ICARC tower and repeater upgrades at its remote site

Officers for 2026:
President – Bill Robinson, KC3ZAF
Vice President - Joe Rougeux, KD3BCW
Treasurer - Chris Edwards, N3VFK
Secretary - Larry Freeman, N3LT

Board of Directors for 2026
1. Craig Bigler, AB3XA
2. Cass Fitzgerald, N3FLO
3. Ralph Timblin, N3UDI
4. Phil Kopczyk, K3PJ
5. Elmer Sorisio, KB3WG

Local Happenings:

LOCAL HAPPENINGS:

Field Day June 27-28 (See the article: Indiana County Amateur Radio Club shows off skills by Frey Heidi in the June 30 edition of the Indiana Gazette reproduced below, near the end of this document.

Another successful operation for the ARRL Field Day at Blue Spruce Park is now history. It was a fairly expansive operation with three stations and and five available antennas. One being a vertical. There were two stations on the large ball field near the main entrance and two located across the small pond that splits the park. Full operations started, at least for three of the stations at 2:00 PM as scheduled. However the site nearest the ball field was not up and running until a bit after 2:00PM due to a minor problem. Something new this year: running all four radios from Iron-Lithium- Phosphate (Fe-Li-PO4). They are rated at 12.8 V @ 100A-H. That worked out really well after 14-24 hrs of continuously powered operation for the radios without seriously depleting the batteries.
Again this year all of the wire antennas we rope support along the full length of the antennas (messenger Lines). The main benefit being the ability to attain greater height at the feed point for each of the dipole antennas which were used. They allowed us to cover all hf bands between 160 m and 10 m. The arrangement of the operating stations and antennas was such that there was no significant interference between the stations, even without the use of band pass filters. Operating 4A under the W3BMD call sign, there were a final reported total of 349 contacts logged. This was a bit shy of the totals for 2025. (for more details see the following link: https://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/fieldday2026/ <https://www.qsl.net/w3bmd/ > fieldday2026/> , courtesy of Mr. Ian Bigler, KC3DTE)

The logging was done again this year via our local wireless wifi network using N1MM logger software. The logging operation was handled by Mr. Ian Bigler who is also the ICARC webmaster. He kept it all running smoothly. There were 9 operators spread through 80, 40, 20, 15, and 10 meters. Also Ian operated and had a FT8 contact on the 6 meter VHF band for another club first. There was plenty of food around and a small picnic at one of the pavilions with hot-dogs and hamburgers, where Ms. Beverly Sorisio provided some great Sausage & green peppers and onions for sandwiches as well as delectable deserts. There were also grilled hot dogs and sausage with chili and other condiments.

A few photos of the activity follow :

So how many hams does it take to unravel a twisted folded dipole once it is on the ground? At least four, L to R: Joe-KD3BCW, Phil-K3PJ, Dave-W3CDH and Elmer-KB3WG.

There actually were more people at the picnic but the photo timing was terrible- OOPs!

The 160m More-gain antenna is a folded dipole and is difficult to get in the air as now constructed. The photo below shows it in the air but it had to come down due to two twists in the active part of the antenna. It was used at Winter Field Day a couple of years ago and worked well on all bands including 160m but it wasn't meant to be for this Summer Field Day. Maybe next contest. Instead an end-fed antenna cut for 80 m was used in its place and worked very well, even on 40 m. The antenna was used at the operations shown in the photo on the right through the duration. L-R: Dave-N3DZ, Paul-K3VAR, Jerry-WB3DUD, Elmer-KB3WG.

There were at least another three antennas put into service at other locations on the site. For example if one checks out the photo below on the left hand side of the next page, one sees a line going into

another tree up a hill. The line will supports the high end of a 160 meter off-center-fed (OCF) antenna which is about 260 ft long. It is difficult to get in the air but it is a very effective antenna. That's Joe-KD3BCW and Dave-W3CDH putting on the finishing touches before the antenna is pulled into the air. Joe used his compound bow to get the line over the tree for hanging the antenna. The antenna was very successful as it was used by Cass-N3FLO to make his many contacts over the weekend.

The photo below on the right shows Ian-KC3DTE preparing to use his, rather impressive, air cannon to fling a weight attached to a line over a tree to be used for supporting another wire antenna. It should be pointed out that with the antennas that Joe and Ian put into the trees they were able to make the lions share of the contacts for the whole weekend activity.

There were eight known operators throughout the weekend and the number details are given in the link on page 1. (provided by Ian-KC3DTE)

The operators were: Ian Bigler-KC3DTE, Paul Morris-K3VAR, Joe-KD3BCW, Cass Fitzgerald-N3FLO, Bill Robinson-KC3ZAF, Bill McMillen-N3QM, Craig Bigler-AB3XA, Larry Freeman-N3LT.

Note that Paul made all but one of the many CW (Morse Code) contacts for the weekend. A very impressive performance!

ICARC Thanks everyone who helped in making all aspects (setup, operations, food, takedown ...etc) of this event a resounding success. Special thanks to Mr.'s Joe Rougeux, David Steiner, and Phil Kopczyk for their extraordinary motivation, drive, and leadership in getting several antennas in the air for this event.

Other Interesting Tidbits:
The following is an article about an astronomical event that may be of interest to some. Link provided by Chris Edwards-N3VFK

https://spacedaily.com/t-in-2020-something-near-the-centre-of-the-milky-way-switched-on-and-off-six-times-in-radio-waves-then-disappeared-from-every-follow-up-search-in-x-rays-and-infrared-leaving-astronomers-with/

Announcements:

The ICARC meetings are, generally, scheduled for the FIRST Tuesday of each month. The next ICARC meeting is on Tue, July 7, 2026, 6:30 pm at the Indiana, PA Eat 'n Park Restaurant.

The ICARC Public Service and Information Net happens on each Monday night starting at 8:30 PM using the W3BMD repeater on 146.910/146.310 MHz. (ICARC is an ARRL affliated club). There will often be a second net starting immediately following the primary net with the W3BMD/2 repeater, on 146.655/.055 MHz located at ICARC's Remote site. (Tones for both are 131.8 Hz)

Links for Tower Take-down

Courtesy of Deryl Mack , KC3YZW

https://youtu.be/c1LG7SRu9b0

https://youtu.be/risblzrA_hY

https://youtu.be/zCV7vwqTMjk

Attention Technician and General licensees (and prospective hams), have you thought about upgrading?
Do you have trouble making it to an in-person ham exam? Now you don't have that excuse. Groups holding online ham exams have greatly expanded. Some groups are having exams daily. Reportedly it is
an easy process if you have a laptop, desktop or tablet with a camera and microphone. Shown below are
websites where you can look into testing online.

https://wm7x.net/ One of the most popular. They have videos explaining how it's done.
https://kl7aa.org/vex/remote-testing/
https://hamstrung/sessions/remote Lists remote and in person test sessions.

On the National Scene:

Excerpt From the ARRL education@arrl.org

New Technician Class Question Pool begins July 1st

Teaching Technician Class element 2, whether in a classroom or over the internet, is a challenge. While the questions and answers are basic compared to the General- and Extra-Class question pools, our biggest job is being entertainers, keeping our students excited about getting on the air and enjoying our hobby and service.
This means performing lots of live demos, making fun ham contacts over the air in class, and encouraging at-home study before each class session with our pre-test study questions. It is important to have "stage presence", using a friendly voice, slightly louder than just talking, to command the class's attention.
Your first few sessions for Technician element 2 need to build your students' confidence that ham radio will be fun, exciting, and rewarding. Then, once we have 'em hooked, we work the 400+ questions! If we start our first class session with "E = I × R" without selling our students on ham radio, we might overwhelm them, and attendance could shrink.

This past year, our Question Pool Committee worked hard to modify over 150 questions and answers for the Technician Class exam pool, making them more readable for those non-technical folks entering our amateur radio service and hobby.

The test is not being dumbed down, but rather being made more concise and clear. For example, in the phrase, "identify in the diagram a SPST switch" SPST will be spelled out as “Single Pole, Single Throw switch”.
The Question Pool Committee also used ExamTools data to study which Technician test questions were missed the most and revised a few answer choices to make them easier to comprehend.

Lucky for us, they kept the same correct answer for each question. So, for those of us who use PowerPoint slides in the classroom, our slides will still be usable after the July 1st test-rotation date. In fact, about *half* of the test pool for the 2026 – 2030 Technician-Class element 2 remains totally unchanged — this is more good news for many of us who bring in fellow instructors to help lead some of the demonstrations at specific page numbers.

More good news for instructors — 25 new questions take the place of some of the older, more complicated technology questions.

On top of that, for those who use the ARRL Gordon West books, ARRL Acquisitions Editor Mark Derks, KC1RVQ, along with Book Editor Makenzie Ozycz and Assistant Production Supervisor Terese Newman, KC1YPP, were able to maintain the same page numbers in the new book. We know many of you have your own handouts, with page numbers guiding students to see the explanations our books offer — those page references remain the same!

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The following Indiana Gazette Article of June 30, 2026 is reproduced here with the help of Mr. Fred Maize, KM3M- ICARC member.

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club shows off skills in annual 'Field Day' event

By FREY HEIDE
Fheide@indianagazette.net

Joining more than 35,000 amateur radio operators across North America, members of the Indiana County Amateur Radio Club put their skills to the test Saturday and Sunday at Blue Spruce Park in what is dubbed the "largest on-the-air operating event" on the continent.

Organized by the National Association for Amateur Radio, formerly the American Radio Relay League, since 1933, the annual Field Day invites the public to witness amateur radio operators demonstrate the science and skill behind working with ham radio, another term for amateur radio, for 24 hours. Additionally, it is a challenge for operators to test their emergency preparedness, as the devices they utilize are more reliable than the ubiquitously used wireless networks that powers the everyday mobile device.

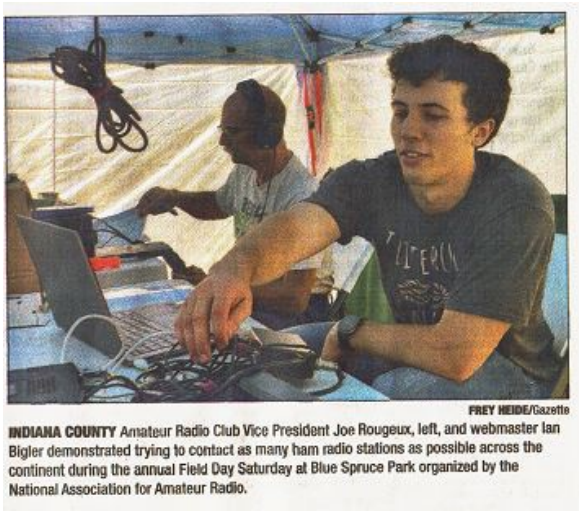
"If the internet went down, you wouldn't be able to talk to (anyone)" said Cass Fitzgerald, ICARC board member and former vice president. "That's $10 trillion worth of infrastructure that's worthless.

"If you were to call someone, it would be rerouted through many different landlines across the fiber optic network, but if that goes out or gets overloaded, you might get switched to a satellite system ... with radio, it's straight one radio to the other."

Through his equipment, Fitzgerald was attempting to make contact on a 10-meter high-frequency band, which is one of several common frequencies amateur radio operators utilize to connect and communicate with each other. The Field Day authorized radio operators to broadcast on 160-, 80-, 40-, 20-, 15- and 10-meter bands in an attempt to gather the most points.

However, the event was less

See RADIO: A-8



FREY HEIDE/Gazette

INDIANA COUNTY Amateur Radio Club Vice President Joe Rougeux, left, and webmaster Ian Bigler demonstrated trying to contact as many ham radio stations as possible across the continent during the annual Field Day Saturday at Blue Spruce Park organized by the National Association for Amateur Radio.

Indiana County Amateur Radio Club shows off skills

RADIO: From A-1

of a contest and more of a demonstration. Results of this event are expected to be published in the December issue of "QST" magazine, an official monthly publication distributed by ARRL.

In the beginning of the day, Fitzgerald had only received a contact from a station in northern Florida, but other ham operators in the club had been able to touch base with stations as far as Europe in the past.

For Paul Morris, a 62-year veteran of radio operation, particularly continuous wave transmission, where he uses Morse code to communicate with other stations, he was able make contact with more local stations toward the beginning of the event, as close as Ohio and eastern Pennsylvania, but also a few in Canada.

Radio runs in the family for Morris, with his father and uncle engaging in both professional and amateur operations, which then was passed on to Morris.

"My dad, in World War II, was the chief radio operator on the first hospital ship," he said. "He made 26 crossings of the Atlantic doing CW.

"I was visiting (my uncle) in Duluth, Minn., and he was a radio amateur, and I decided from that point on that I liked it well enough to get a license through the Federal Communications Commission."

While many in the club were on the mature side of life, the hobby is not exclusively owned by one age group. Ian Bigler, 21, said he followed his father's footsteps after attending a past Field Day.

"There's not a lot of (younger guys)," he said. "However, especially in colleges, there are decently large communities where amateur radio operations allow you to experiment if that's the direction you want to go or just to have fun in the hobby. You get an excuse to camp out and do that sort of thing. Overall, it's a very welcoming hobby.

"Being in a room of older people may be intimidating, but usually they're quite welcoming."

The ICARC meets monthly, with its next meeting at 6:30 p.m. Tuesday, July 7, at Eat'n Park, 2675 Oakland Ave., White Township. It also operates repeaters and a weekly public service net at 8:30 p.m. Mondays, with more information to be found on the club's website, www.qsl.net/w3bmd.

FREY HEIDE/Gazette

CASS FITZGERALD was operating on a 10-meter, high-frequency band to contact as many ham radio stations as possible across the continent during the annual Field Day Saturday at Blue Spruce Park organized by the National Association for Amateur Radio.

ICARC Meeting, Summary Minutes, 05/05/2026 .

President - KC3ZAF called the meeting to order at 6:30pm Eastern time.

1. Pledge of Allegiance: DONE

2. Roll Call: 15 Attendees-Attendance: 15 Attendees – KC3ZAF, N3VFK, AB3XA, N3LT, K3PJ, WB3DUD, N3ARA, K3VAR, W3CDH, N3UDI, KA2YOS, KB3WG, WA3BDR, KC3FVU, N3DZ

3. Program: Ralph Timblin, N3UDI presented a nice presentation on Battery Sizing for Portable Ops.

4. Treasurer's Report: A general report was given indicating the bills paid including electric ($70.83)and the General and Maintenance funds balances. $70.00 was received in "pass the hat" donations and received $70.00 from Dues giving.

5. Trustee's Report: Brief report given by Elmer,repeaters are mostly working. There was a short discussion and the Report was voted upon and accepted

6. Secretary's Report: The secretary read the preliminary Minutes from the April 7 meeting which were voted upon and accepted with no modifications.

   The secretary read the ARRL Foundation article in the May issue of QST which indicates, after running the numbers, that the ICARC grant award was over 40 percent of the total Foundation dollar amount awarded for the year 2025. The secretary also provides a short progress report on the Grant indicating that all designated equipment has been purchased and all grant money has been spent with a small overage leaving $1585.40. It is now just a matter of getting the Final Report documents submitted to the ARRL Foundation which is hoped to be done by the morning of Monday, May 11, 2026.

   The secretary also appealed for written or emailed comments from members providing their thoughts about the grant; to be inserted as part of the Supporting Documents for the Grant Final report as requested by the ARRL Foundation.

   Larry announced his absence from May 14-June 4; he will not be at the June meeting but will be able to help setup for field day.

   Someone also pointed out that the details of field day have yet to be planned other that having reserved Blue Spruce Park and possibly operating 4A as suggested by Joe R. at a past meeting.

   Secretary's report was voted upon and accepted.

7. Old business: Phil asked the question: Can we get a mail box at the EMA? There was some discussion with no definite conclusion on that and the possibility of getting an address at the Rhine Rd. site. Other discussions ensued on saving money leading to a discussion of the electricity at the site being commercial rate rather that residential. The residential rate is about half the commercial rate but other fees are not so starkly different between the two rate structures although commercial fees are somewhat higher than those of the residential fees.

   There was also a discussion of Solar panels and Craig suggested that we build a structure to support the four that we now possess. This led into new

business and discussions of having a work day to do cleaning and design for the support of the solar panels.

8. New Business: Larry was tasked to send out an email to membership announcing a workday and "Hot Dog" event on Saturday, May 9, 2026, weather permitting. The purpose will be clean up and sort outside steel and other waste material for disposal. We may also attempt an inventory in the shack to see what can be kept, sold, or recycled/disposed.

9. Adjournment: After a motion was made, seconded and voted upon, the meeting adjourned at 8:10 PM